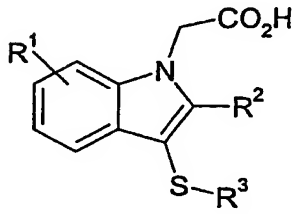
CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



(I)

in which

R^1 is hydrogen, halogen, CN, nitro, SO_2R^4, OH, OR^4, $S(O)xR^4$, $SO_2NR^5R^6$, $CONR^5R^6$, NR^5R^6, aryl (optionally substituted by chlorine or fluorine), C_2-C_6 alkenyl, C_2-C_6 alkynyl or C_{1-6} alkyl, the latter three groups being optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen, OR^8 and NR^5R^6, $S(O)_xR^7$ where x is 0,1 or 2;

R^2 is hydrogen, halogen, CN, SO_2R^4 or $CONR^5R^6$, CH_2OH, CH_2OR^4 or C_{1-7}alkyl, the latter group being optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms, OR^8 and NR^5R^6, $S(O)_xR^7$ where x is 0, 1 or 2;

R^3 is aryl or heteroaryl each of which is optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, CN, nitro, OH, SO_2R^4, OR^4, SR^4, SOR^4, $SO_2NR^5R^6$, $CONR^5R^6$, NR^5R^6, $NHCOR^4$, $NHSO_2R^4$, $NHCO_2R^4$, $NR^7SO_2R^4$, $NR^7CO_2R^4$, C_2-C_6 alkenyl, C_2-C_6 alkynyl, C_{1-6} alkyl, the latter three groups being optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms, OR^8 and NR^5R^6, $S(O)_xR^7$ where x = 0,1 or 2;

R^4 represents aryl, heteroaryl, or C_{1-6}alkyl all of which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms, aryl, heteroaryl, OR^{10}, OH, $NR^{11}R^{12}$, $S(O)_xR^{13}$ (where x = 0,1 or 2), $CONR^{14}R^{15}$, $NR^{14}COR^{15}$,$SO_2NR^{14}R^{15}$, $NR^{14}SO_2R^{15}$, CN, nitro;

R^5 and R^6 independently represent a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6}alkyl group, or an aryl,or a heteroaryl, the latter three of which may be optionally substituted by one or more

substituents independently selected from halogen atoms, aryl, OR^8 and $NR^{14}R^{15}$, $CONR^{14}R^{15}$, $NR^{14}COR^{15}$, $SO_2NR^{14}R^{15}$, $NR^{14}SO_2R^{15}$; CN, nitro

or

R^5 and R^6 together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached can form a 3-8 membered saturated heterocylic ring optionally containing one or more atoms selected from O, $S(O)_x$ where x = 0,1 or 2, NR^{16}, and itself optionally substituted by C_{1-3} alkyl;

R^7 and R^{13} independently represent a C_1-C_6, alkyl, an aryl or a heteroaryl group, all of which may be optionally substituted by halogen atoms;

R^8 represents a hydrogen atom, $C(O)R^9$, C_1-C_6 alkyl (optionally substituted by halogen atoms or aryl) an aryl or a heteroaryl group (optionally substituted by halogen);

each of R^9 R^{10}, R^{11}, R^{12}, R^{14}, R^{15}, independently represents a hydrogen atom, C_1-C_6 alkyl, an aryl or a heteroaryl group; and

R^{16} is hydrogen, C_{1-4} alkyl, -COC_1-C_4 alkyl, $COYC_1$-C_4alkyl where Y is O or NR^7.

each of R^9 R^{10}, R^{11}, R^{12}, R^{14}, R^{15}, independently represents a hydrogen atom, C_1-C_6 alkyl, an aryl or a heteroaryl group (all of which may be optionally substituted by halogen atoms); and

R^{16} is hydrogen, C_{1-4} alkyl, -COC_1-C_4 alkyl, $COYC_1$-C_4alkyl where Y is O or NR^7,

- provided that when R^1 is hydrogen and R^2 is methyl, then R^3 is not 2-nitrophenyl.

2. A compound according to claim 1 in which R^1 is aryl, hydrogen, methyl, chloro, fluoro, nitrile, nitro, bromo, iodo, SO_2Me, SO_2Et, NR^4R^5, SO_2N-alkyl$_2$.

3. A compound according to claim 1 or 2 in which R^2 is C_{1-6}alkyl.

4. A compound according to claim 3 in which R^3 is quinolyl, phenyl or thiazole. substituted by one or more fluorine, chlorine, methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, methoxy, SO_2Me, trifluoromethyl or aryl.groups. .

5. A compound according to claim 1 selected from:

3-[(4-chlorophenyl)thio]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indol-1-acetic acid;
3-[(2-chloro-4-fluorophenyl)thio]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indol-1-acetic acid;
3-[(3-chloro-4-fluorophenyl)thio]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indol-1-acetic acid;
3-[(2-methoxyphenyl)thio]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indol-1-acetic acid;
3-[(3-fluorophenyl)thio]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indol-1-acetic acid;
3-[(4-ethylphenyl)thio]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indol-1-acetic acid;
3-[(2-chlorophenyl)thio]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indol-1-acetic acid;
3-[(2,5-dichlorophenyl)thio]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indol-1-acetic acid;
3-[(4-fluorophenyl)thio]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indol-1-acetic acid;
3-[(4-chloro-2-methylphenyl)thio]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indol-1-acetic acid;
3-[(4-chlorophenyl)thio]-4-cyano-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
5-chloro-3-[(4-chlorophenyl)thio]-6-cyano-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
3-[(4-chlorophenyl)thio]-4-(ethylsulfonyl)-7-methoxy-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
3-[(4-chlorophenyl)thio]-4-[(diethylamino)sulfonyl]-7-methoxy-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
4-chloro-3-[(4-chlorophenyl)thio]-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
5-chloro-3-[(4-chlorophenyl)thio]-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
6-chloro-3-[(4-chlorophenyl)thio]-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
7-chloro-3-[(4-chlorophenyl)thio]-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
3-[(4-chlorophenyl)thio]-2-methyl-5-(methylsulfonyl)-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
2-methyl-3-[(4-methylphenyl)thio]-6-(methylsulfonyl)-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
4-bromo-3-[(4-chlorophenyl)thio]-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
3-[(4-chlorophenyl)thio]-4-[4-[(1,1-dimethylethoxy)carbonyl]-1-piperazinyl]-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
3-[(4-chlorophenyl)thio]-2-methyl-4-(1-piperazinyl)-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
5-bromo-3-[(4-chlorophenyl)thio]-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
3-[(4-chlorophenyl)thio]-2-methyl-5-phenyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
3-[(4-chlorophenyl)thio]-5-cyano-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
3-[(4-cyanophenyl)thio]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indol-1-acetic acid,
3-[(3-methoxyphenyl)thio]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
3-[(4-methoxyphenyl)thio]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid,
3-[(3-ethylphenyl)thio]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid
2,5-dimethyl-3-[(2-methylphenyl)thio]-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
3-[(3-chlorophenyl)thio]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid,
3-[(2-Fluorophenyl)thio]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid,
3-[(2,6-Dichlorophenyl)thio]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;

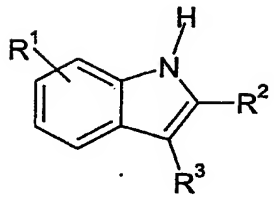
3-(1*H*-Imidazol-2-ylthio)-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid,
2,5-Dimethyl-3-(1*H*-1,2,4-triazol-3-ylthio)-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
2,5-Dimethyl-3-[(4-methyl-4*H*-1,2,4-triazol-3-yl)thio]-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
2,5-Dimethyl-3-[(4-methyl-2-oxazolyl)thio]-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
2,5-Dimethyl-3-[(1-methyl-1*H*-imidazol-2-yl)thio]-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
2,5-Dimethyl-3-[[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]thio]-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid,
2,5-Dimethyl-3-(8-quinolinylthio)- 1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid,
3-[(4-Chlorophenyl)thio]-5-fluoro-2,4-dimethyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
3-[(4-Cyanophenyl)thio]-5-fluoro-2,4-dimethyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
3-[(2-Chlorophenyl)thio]-5-fluoro-2,4-dimethyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
5-Fluoro-3-[(2-methoxyphenyl)thio]-2,4-dimethyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
5-Fluoro-3-[(2-ethylphenyl)thio]-2,4-dimethyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
5-Fluoro-2,4-dimethyl-3-[[2-(1-methylethyl)phenyl]thio]-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
5-fluoro-2,4-dimethyl-3-[[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]thio]-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
2,5-dimethyl-4-(methylsulfonyl)-3-[(4-phenyl-2-thiazolyl)thio]-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
3-[(3-chlorophenyl)thio]-2,5-dimethyl-4-(methylsulfonyl)- 1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
3-[(2-chlorophenyl)thio]-2,5-dimethyl-4-(methylsulfonyl)- 1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
3-[(4-chlorophenyl)thio]-5-(methoxycarbonyl)-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
5-carboxy-3-[(4-chlorophenyl)thio]-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
3-[(4-chlorophenyl)thio]-2-methyl-4-nitro-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
4-amino-3-[(4-chlorophenyl)thio]-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
3-[(4-chlorophenyl)thio]-4-(ethylamino)-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
3-[(4-chlorophenyl)thio]-4-iodo-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
3-[(4-chlorophenyl)thio]-2-methyl-4-phenyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

6. A compound of formula (I) according to any one of claims 1 to 5 for use in therapy.

7. A method of treating a disease mediated by prostaglandin D2, which comprises administering to a patient a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt as defined in claims 1 to 6.

8. A method of treating according to claim 7 wherein the disease is asthma or rhinitis.

9. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I) which comprises reaction of a compound of formula (II):



(II)

in which R^1, R^2 and R^3 are as defined in formula (I) or are protected derivatives thereof, with a compound of formula (A):

$L\text{-}CH_2CO_2R^{17}$ (A)

where R^{17} is an ester forming group and L is a leaving group in the presence of a base, and optionally thereafter in any order:

- removing any protecting group
- hydrolysing the ester group R^{17} to the corresponding acid
- forming a pharmaceutically acceptable salt.

10. A compound of formula (II) as defined in claim 9.

11. A compound of formula (I) for use in the treatment of a disease mediated by prostaglandin D2.